

NORTH HAVEN CLEAN ENERGY TASK FORCE

September 14, 2009 - Minutes

Library Conference Room

Present: Kenny Foscue, Vice Chairman, Mary Mahon, Letty McPhedran

Absent: Hugh Davis, Diantha Thorpe, Rip Dauster, Maurice Libson, Lisa Manfredi, Eric Mangels

Guest Anthony Giordano, NHHS advisor to Project Green Students

New Members were introduced: Jackie Ladutko and Sarah Baird

Minutes of August 10 meeting were approved and will be sent to the North Haven Town Clerk for recording.

Kenny reported on the August 26 Regional Meeting of Clean Energy Task Forces. The Amity Region Tri-town Energy Conservation Campaign has organized three towns using incentives for home and business energy audits.

Letty added later that the task forces have taken on a wide variety of chores from daily monitoring their high schools' energy output to organizing three different towns' clean energy task forces to apply for grants that could possibly let them hire a manager, as the volunteers' hours are limited. Letty will find out who manages grants in town, and ask that they look for any grants available for energy conservation uses.

Two PTO Open Houses so far have produced only 4 sign-ups. Project Green helped at Clintonville and two members will be present at each of the three remaining Open Houses. Kenny will be at the NHHS Open House also. We will be deciding whether to continue soliciting green energy sign-ups at PTO meetings next year.

More successful have been our efforts at the Recycling Center once a month.. We will staff a table there Saturday October 17th: 8:30 – 10:30 am Sarah and Kenny, and 10:30 – 12:30 Letty and Jackie. Sarah suggested wearing green clothes(T shirts or jackets) while we are there.

On Election Day, Montowese, Green Acres and Clintonville voting sites will hopefully be staffed by shifts from Project Green. Anthony Giordano will find out if there is the interest from this year's NHHS group. .

Kenny made copies of our three main handouts, and bought more CFL bulbs. He encouraged us to take some of each and approach our friends and neighbors for sign-ups.

Newspaper Articles have been hard for us to produce, although we had hoped to have one a month, there have been less. After seeing how few PTO parents even knew of our effort, Letty said she would try to get one of our original articles reprinted, telling of our cause. Anthony Giordano will propose that articles be prepared by some of the Project Green students. These would count toward public service for the students. Anthony also suggested an announcement when the Project Green students purchase new recycling containers in the high school. They also plan to make a concerted effort to educate everyone in the high school on recycling and if possible carry this down to the middle school and lower schools. Letty will look into the possibility of two members of our task force being on Steve Fontana's local TV show.

Federal and State money is available to towns now. Kenny felt it would be great to have a manager who would keep an eye on all grants, possibly do some of the writing and press releases we volunteers are doing now. There may be special money for clean energy. If towns banded together, this might be possible.

Next meeting: Monday, October 19 (Oct. 12 is Columbus Day) Reserve Library room

Submitted by Letty McPhedran